

tion material and placards 40. Additionally, it is not beyond the scope of the present invention that an energy-powered display light, sound or motion may be used in the display case, and may be placed in any aperture. As one example of such an application a light source may be positioned inside an aperture 38 and a translucent image may be affixed over the aperture 38 to provide a back-lighted display.

The operation and use of the display case of the present invention can be seen and understood by reference to FIGS. 2 through 5. In FIG. 2, the case is depicted in a display mode. FIGS. 4 and 5 depict the operational transition to the carrying mode shown in FIG. 3. The purpose and function of the hinge lines of weakness should be noted. In FIG. 2, at 20A, the lines of weakness enable the hinge 18 to collapse upon itself to occupy a minimal space between adjacent panels 12 and 14, thus enabling the display to have a unified, pleasing appearance. The other hinge 20 is shown expanded at 20B to illustrate function, but of course, will attain the hinge configuration shown at 20A. FIG. 5 shows that the hinges may expand as at 20 to allow the case to be closed into the carrying mode shown in FIG. 3. It will be appreciated that the flexibility of the hinges 18, 20 and the hinge lines of weakness combine to permit either a display of only one section interior, or a sequential display of section interiors, or a generally planar display of all section interiors, as well as display of the section interiors at any angle relative to one another, or complete closure of the display case into its portable or carrying mode.

FIG. 6 illustrates an expanded view of a portion of hinge 20, viewed from the direction 6—6 of FIG. 3. A central sequence of elongated perforations 22A is proximately centered along the edge of section 12. Parallel lines of weakness are formed along hinge line 22B and hinge line 22C, and these parallel lines of weakness may similarly be formed by a sequence of perforations. Hinge lines 22B and 22C are approximately in alignment with the respective alignment edges 12/14 and 14/16. FIG. 7 shows an expanded view of a portion of hinge 20, viewed along the direction 7—7 of FIG. 3. In this case, hinge 18 is affixed along one edge to section 14 and along the other edge to section 12, and perforated hinge line 22A is contained between sections 14 and 16. Hinged lines 22B and 22C are effectively adjacent one another, to permit a full closure of sections 12, 14 and 16. When the display case 10 is opened to a flat position as shown in FIG. 4, it is apparent that hinge 18 permits sufficient flexibility so as to place sections 12 and 14 either immediately adjacent one another, or in a spaced-apart relationship. Similarly, hinge 20 permits sections 14 and 16 to be positioned adjacent one another or in a spaced-apart configuration. It is also apparent that the flexibility of hinges 18 and 20 will permit sections 12 and 16 to become opened beyond 180° to provide an upright display which may be viewed from both sides and from the front. When the display case 10 of FIG. 4

is closed, first section 12 is folded over to align atop section 14, and then section 16 is folded over to align atop section 12, as shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5. All the foregoing positions and options may be achieved by the use of a single hinge material construction, which may be manufactured in web form and cut to size to fit particular display cases 10.

From the preceding description it will be appreciated that the portable display case of the present invention provides for both the convenient, safe transportation of display material and the attractive, convenient presentation of that material.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiment be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being made to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable multisectional display case for displaying and transporting information, said case comprising:
 - a center section having a planar front surface and a first lateral sidewall and a second lateral sidewall;
 - at least two adjacent sections having planar front surfaces and lateral sidewalls;
 - a first hinge means connecting said first lateral sidewall of said center section to a lateral sidewall of one of said adjacent sections and a second hinge means connecting said second lateral sidewall of said center section to a lateral sidewall of another adjacent section;
 - both of said hinge means being formed from a web material having a center line of weakness formed by a series of spaced-apart perforations, and having a parallel line of weakness equally spaced on either side of said center line of weakness, the distance between said parallel lines of weakness being substantially equal to the thickness of said center section lateral sidewall;
 - said adjacent sections being foldable about said hinge means from a carrying position wherein said two adjacent sections are folded to overlie said center section, and being unfoldable about said hinge means to form a display position wherein said two adjacent sections form a display surface in combination with said center section.
2. The display case defined in claim 1, wherein said hinge means is flexible about all of said lines of weakness.
3. The display case defined in claim 1, wherein said display case includes a handle means for carrying said case, affixed to one of said lateral sidewalls.
4. The display case defined in claim 2, wherein said display case includes securing means for securing the outermost of said sections to one another when said sections are folded into a carrying position.

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